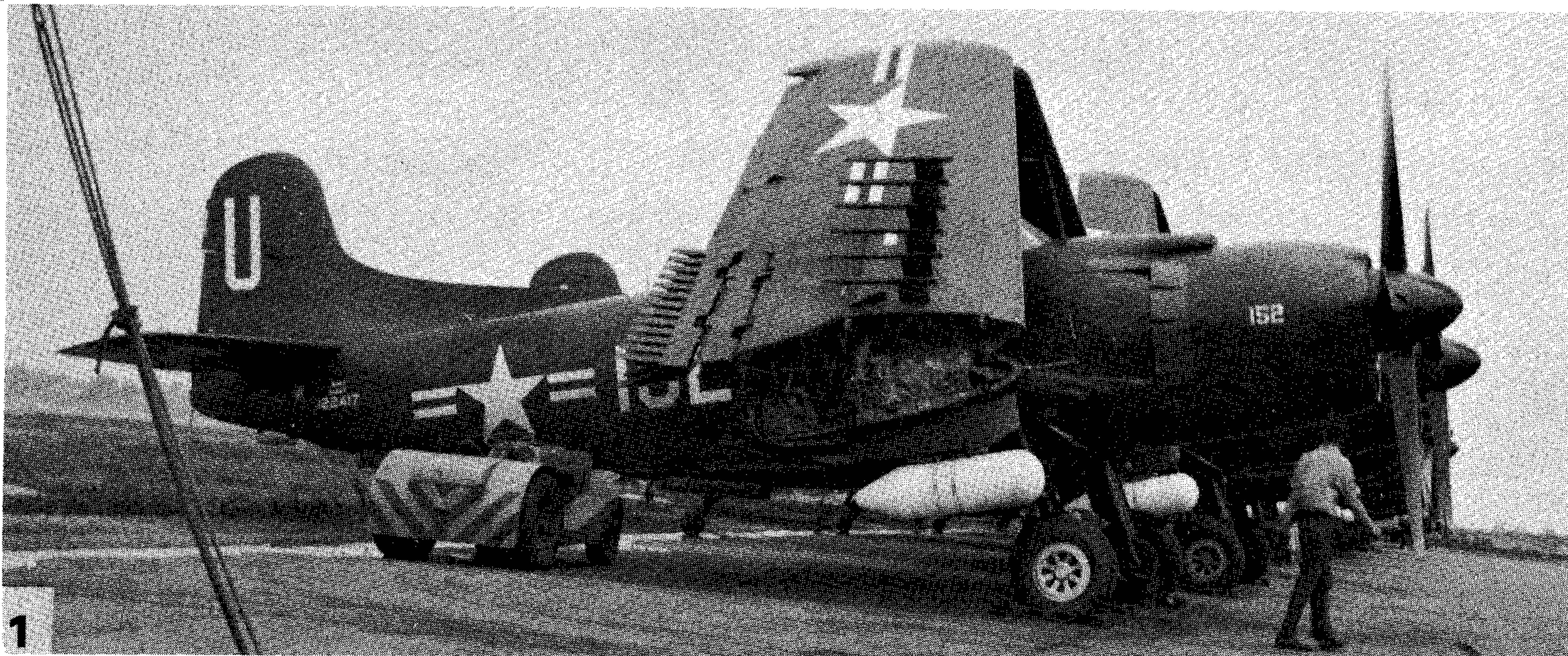
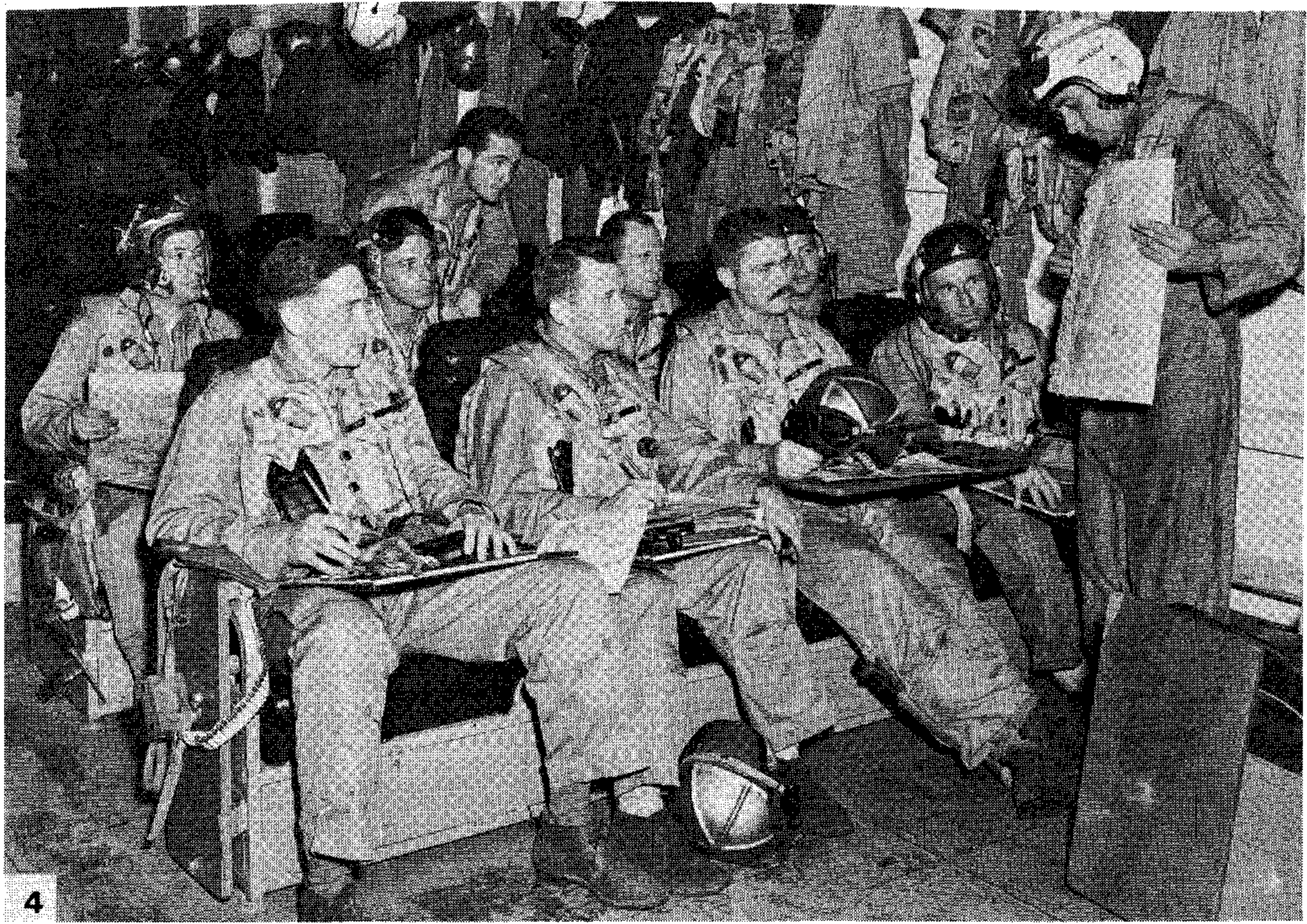


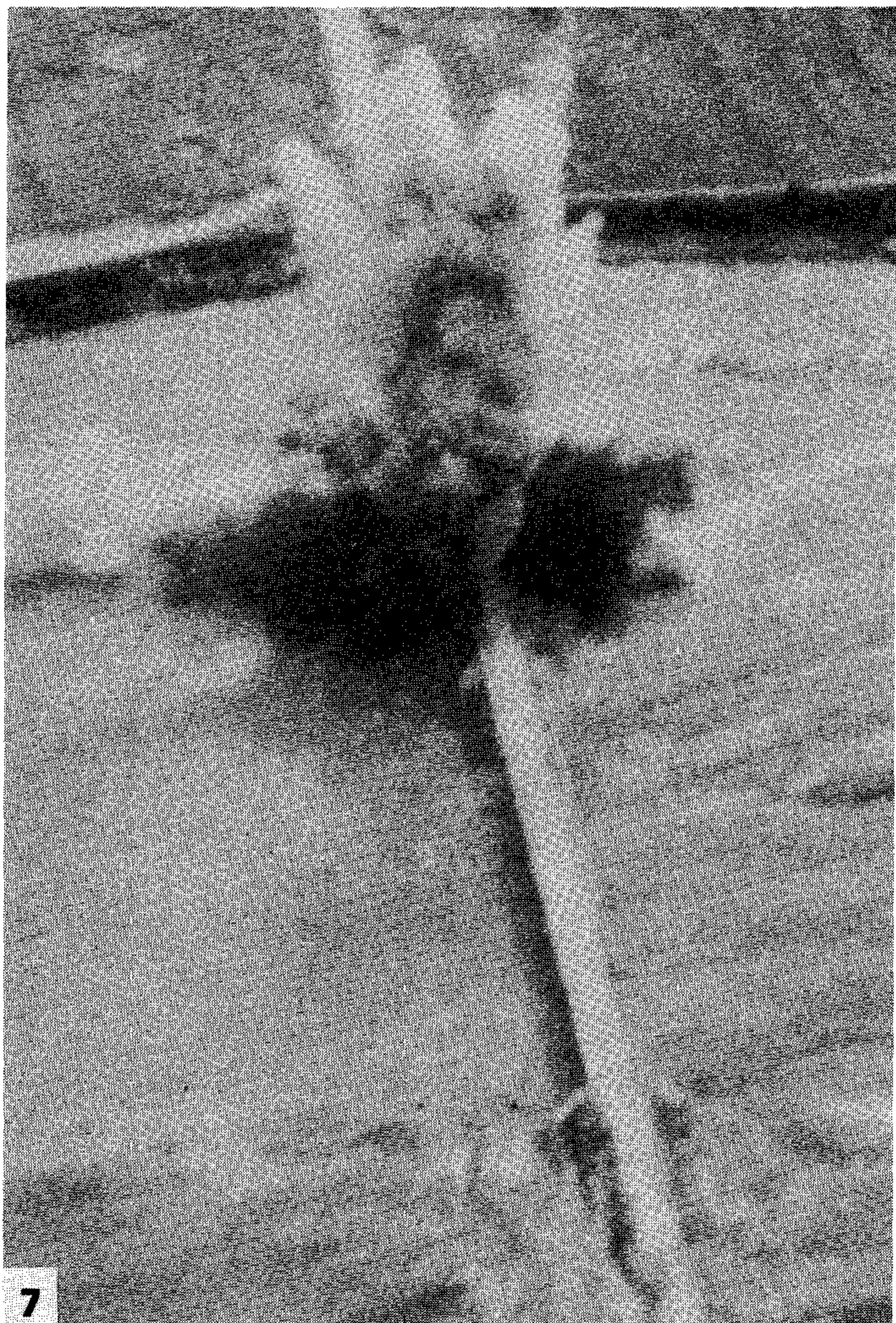
Skyraider Photos

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

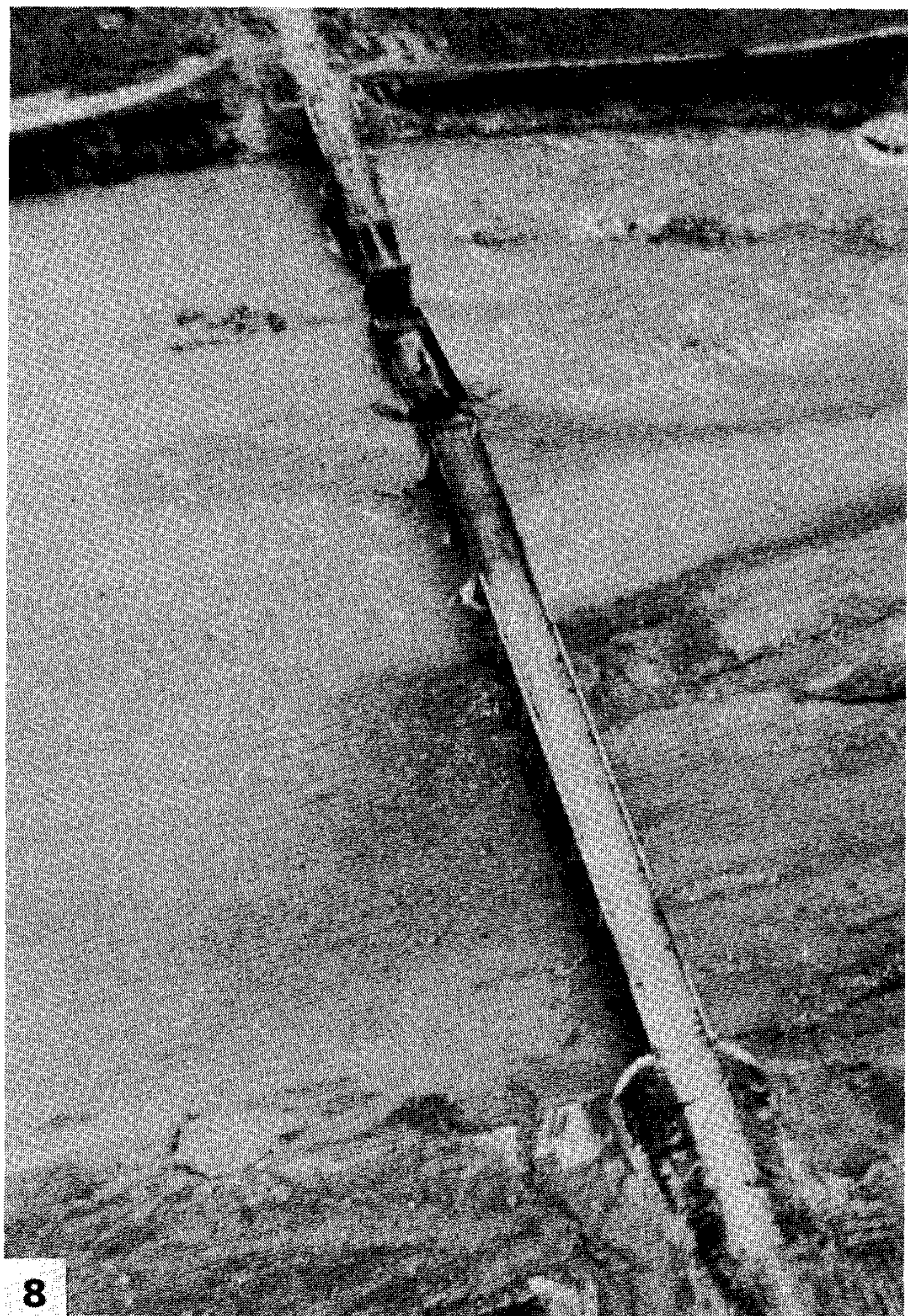
1. Martin AM-1 Mauler #122417 of the St. Louis Naval Air Reserves. The 'Able Mabel' arrived at NAS St. Louis in February, 1950 to replace World War II-era SB2C's and TBM's. Along with other Reserve units, Attack Squadron 923 (VA-923) immediately began working up with these big birds. Early in July, 1950, the squadron spent its first two-week active duty tour with the AM-1 at NAS Quonset Point. Two weeks later, VA-923 personnel were being called to active duty. Photo by Ed Ambro.
2. Douglas AD-2 Skyraider #122350 (and others) running up on VA-923's line at NAS North Island late in 1950. Having just converted from TBM's to AM-1's prior to the call-up, the squadron had to undergo another conversion to the AD. The tail letter 'D' on these Skyraiders signified Air Group 102, an all-Reserve carrier group commissioned for Korean War service. USN photo courtesy Bob Rockford.
3. AD-3 Skyraider #122737, "Hefty Betty", about to launch from the USS Bon Homme Richard, which was brought out of mothballs for Air Group 102's Korean War cruise. VA-923 had traded in its AD-2's for AD-3's shortly before deploying to WestPac aboard the "Bonnie Dick". Photo courtesy Dr. John Vieth.
4. Pre-mission briefing of VA-923 pilots in Ready Room 4 aboard the B.H.R. off the Korean coast. Lcdr Herb Wiley (rt.), VA-923 C.O. uses a relief map to point out the intended target. The Korean-War-vintage flying gear is interesting. Photo courtesy Dr. John Vieth.
5. AD-3 Skyraider 'D-509' prepares to begin take-off roll for a strike against Communist positions in Korea. The ordnance load is typical of those carried by the sturdy Skyraider: four 100# bombs, four 250# bombs, two 1000-pounders, and a 2000# bomb on the centerline for a total of 5400#!. Photo courtesy Dr. John Vieth.
6. VA-923 AD-3 (just left of the smoke column) pulls out from a strafing run on an oil dump at Samho in Korea. Although not the primary target for this mission, this one was well-hit. Reports indicated that the dump, which was struck at 10 AM, was still burning late in the day. Photo courtesy Dr. John Vieth.
- 7 & 8. During and after views of a North Korean bridge attacked successfully by Skyraiders of VA-923. Actions such as this earned the squadron the nickname "Bridge-Busters". Photo courtesy Dr. John Vieth.
9. Personal markings on "Lydia", 'D-502' of VA-923, toward the end of the Korean cruise. Note the accumulation of mission marks on the fuselage side just below the cockpit. Application of such marks was up to the plane captain; some were proud to keep the tally current, while others just didn't bother. One VA-923 Skyraider did manage to rack up over 100 missions during the BHR cruise to Korea. Photo courtesy Dr. John Vieth.
10. "The Manhattan Mauler", another example of the personally marked AD-3's of VA-923 during the Korean War cruise. Most, but not all, of the squadron's aircraft carried personal markings. Photo courtesy Dr. John Vieth.







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